

Public Disclosure of Lobbying Act of 1976

1. Applicability

Applies to any organization which

(1) makes an expenditure in excess of \$2,500 per year for the retention of another person to make oral or written communications directed to a Federal officer or employee to influence any bill, resolution, amendment, contract, etc.

(2) employs at least one individual who spends 20 percent of his time engaged in above activities; shall not apply to:

(a) a communication made at the request of a Federal officer or employee

(b) communication or solicitation made through a newspaper or through a radio or television broadcast

(c) a communication by an individual expressing his personal opinion.

2. Registration

(a) shall be made with the Comptroller General not later than 15 days after engaging in such activities

(b) to contain identification of the organization, methods by which a position is arrived at, and identification of person who carries on such activities (lobbying)

(c) shall be made annually

3. Records

Each organization shall maintain records relating to the registrations and reports required to be filed for each quarterly filing period.

4. Reports

(1) each organization shall within 15 days after the last day of the quarterly filing period file a report with the Comptroller General concerning activities which were engaged in during the period

(2) each report shall contain the following:

(a) identification of the organization

(b) total expenditures during such period

(c) identification of any person retained by the organization to engage in such activities

(d) description of 25 issues upon which the organization spent the greatest proportion of its efforts

(e) descriptions of solicitations initiated or paid for and subject matter they were concerned with

(f) disclosure of each known direct business contact by organization to Federal officer

5. Powers of Comptroller General (U. S.)

(1) authorized to request by subpoena any individual or organization to submit in writing reports, records, correspondence, etc.

(2) administer oaths

(3) pay witnesses, etc.

(4) No person shall be civilly liable in any private suit brought by any person for disclosure of information

6. Duties of Comptroller General

(1) developing a cross indexing system of persons identified in registration and reports

(2) make copies of reports available to the public

(3) summarize information in reports

(4) conduct investigations and hearings

7. Advisory Opinions

May be rendered by Comptroller General with respect to applicability of the record keeping, registration, or reporting requirements to any specific set of facts involving such individual or organization.

8. Enforcement

Any violations of law which cannot be corrected by the Comptroller General in conference shall be referred to the Attorney General.

Reports shall be made by the Comptroller General no later than 31 March of each year to the President and to each House of Congress.